Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 24 and 29. The Claim listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application.

Claim Listing

1.   (Previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

an intermediate device to be coupled between a storage protocol controller and at least one storage device, and capable of communicating in accordance with a plurality of storage protocols, and including,

protocol sensing circuitry to determine based on an initialization signal sequence indicative of a storage protocol received from the at least one storage device which one of the plurality of storage protocols via which the at least one storage device to be coupled to the intermediate device is capable of communicating, and

flow control circuitry to control a data stream between the at least one storage device and the storage protocol controller, wherein the data stream includes the storage protocol determined by the protocol sensing circuitry.

2.   Canceled.

3.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
the initialization signal sequence comprises an out-of-band signal sequence.

4.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
the protocol sensing circuitry is also capable of receiving at least one of an out-of-band signal sequence and an analog burst signal sequence, and the flow control circuitry comprises data tracking circuitry capable of receiving a data stream from said at least one storage device and also capable of generating a clock signal indicative of the frequency of said data stream, said flow control circuitry also comprising retimer circuitry capable of receiving said data stream and said clock signal and generating a retimed data stream.